



AMERICORPS LINGO



It's not a job, job training, or typical volunteer position, it's a...	Service ~ or ~ Service Project
We're not employees, apprentices, or typical volunteers, we're...	Members ~ or ~ AmeriCorps Members ~ or ~ National Service Participants
We don't perform clerical duties or answer the phones because we...	Get Things Done ~ or ~ Have National Priorities
It's not an entitlement, cash award, scholarship, it's an... It's NOT paid directly to students because it's an... It's paid directly to a post-secondary institution because it's an... It isn't transferable to any family member because it's an... It's paid through the National Service Trust fund so it's an...	Education Award
It's not a wage, salary, or paycheck, it's a...	Living Allowance
It's not a work site or job site, it's a... I serve at a safe and drug-free...	Service Site
They're not the feds, they're the...	Corporation for National and Community Service
They're not the AmeriCorps office, they're the...	Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
We're not a corps, we're...	AmeriCorps ~ or ~ AmeriCorps Team
We do not wear uniforms, we wear	AmeriCorps Gear ~ or ~ AmeriCorps Greys

GLOSSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE TERMS

AC*RPS	AmeriCorps Recruitment and Placement System. An online system whereby AmeriCorps programs can post open positions and potential members can search for service opportunities. Potential members can apply online via this portal.
ACTION	The Federal domestic volunteer agency, established in 1971 to administer VISTA and the senior volunteer programs (Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP). ACTION became part of the Corporation for National and Community Service in 1994.
Administrative Costs	Administrative Costs are costs associated with the overall administration of a program. Such costs include: indirect costs as identified in applicable provisions of OMB Circulars that related to indirect costs; costs for financial, accounting, auditing, or contracting functions; costs for insurance that protects the entity that operates the program; and that portion of the salaries and benefits of the director and any other programs staff equal to the portion of the time that is not spent in support of specific project objectives (i.e. recruiting, training, placing, or supervising participants).
AmeriCorps	A network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve with more than 2,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 500,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service. AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.
AmeriCorps CARE	The contract agency in Washington, DC that administers reimbursement for child care expenses incurred by dependents of qualified AmeriCorps members.
AmeriCorps Member	An individual serving on a full-time or part-time basis in an AmeriCorps program who is eligible to receive an education award or alternative post service benefit. AmeriCorps members are not "employees"; they are not "apprentices"; they are not typical volunteers. They are AmeriCorps members.
AmeriCorps*NCCC	National Civilian Community Corps, a full-time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. Working in teams of 10-14, approximately 1,100 members, based out of three campuses across the country, take on a series of six- to eight-week projects throughout their respective regions. Because members are trained in first aid and can be assigned to new duties on short notice, they are particularly well-suited to meeting the nation's homeland security and disaster response needs.
AmeriCorps*State & National	The largest AmeriCorps program, through which more than 65,000 members serve each year with hundreds of nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based organizations nationwide. Members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, ,

clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, and manage community volunteers, among other activities.

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America, a program that helps individuals and communities implement grassroots solutions designed to alleviate poverty. Founded in 1965 and brought under the auspices of AmeriCorps in 1994, the program places individuals at nonprofit organizations and public agencies that fight poverty. Among other activities, AmeriCorps*VISTA members, who serve full-time for a year, recruit community volunteers, raise funds, help manage projects, and otherwise build the capacity of agencies to become sustainable. Approximately 6,000 VISTA members serve annually at more than 1,600 sponsor sites nationwide.

Capacity-Building

Creating the infrastructure necessary to support needed programs and services inside communities. Helping a nonprofit housing program establish a volunteer network or creating a community watch program to help control and prevent crime are examples of capacity-building activities.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

Established by the National and Community Service Act of 1993 to coordinate and fund service activities nationwide, the Corporation oversees the AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America programs. An independent Federal agency, the Corporation is the nation's largest grant maker for volunteering and service programs.

Compelling Personal Circumstances

Issues outside an AmeriCorps member's control that necessitate that a member stop serving in a program for a specific period of time or indefinitely, such as sickness or critical illness of the member, death or critical illness of a member of the member's immediate family, or termination of a project site if reassignment is not possible. Members are eligible to receive a pro-rated education award if they are exited from the program early due to compelling personal circumstances.

Direct Service

Direct service is not generally considered to be clerical duties for an agency; it is not answering the AmeriCorps phone. Direct service is providing service directly to the community and/or community residents. Direct service may include tutoring, cleaning a river bed, teaching English, painting a home, assisting a teacher, counseling a crime victim, or teaching someone CPR, to name a few examples.

Disability Funds

Funding awarded to State Commissions to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs and to provide limited funding for reasonable accommodations to support persons with disabilities in performing service-related tasks.

Education Award

Also known as the Segal Education award, a benefit of \$4,725 for members (full time – pro-rated for part-time) after successful completion of a term of service. The award is paid directly to a lending or educational institution and may be used to pay off federal student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or approved vocational training. The education award is not an entitlement, is not a cash award, and is not a scholarship. It cannot be transferred to other family members.

FGP

Foster Grandparents Program, a program of Senior Corps, provides loving and experienced tutors and mentors to children and youth with

	special needs. Approximately 31,000 Foster Grandparents meet the needs of more than 260,000 young people each year. FGP is one of the Senior Corps programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.
Host Site	An entity that acts as a project sponsor and is responsible for the actual site on which a project is performed. This entity may provide task specific training, technical assistance, member supervision, or other services as agreed to in a contract or MOU between the program and host site.
ICCSV	The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism, which is the State Service Commission for Indiana (see State Service Commission).
Learn and Serve America	School-based or community-based programs sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service to promote service-learning as an integral part of the educational experience for youth (K-16).
Living Allowance	The living allowance is not a “wage”; it is not a “salary”; it is not based on the number of hours a member serves. A living allowance is a stipend. It is provided to some members enrolled and active in an AmeriCorps program. Other service programs providing living allowances include Peace Corps, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions.
MSY	Member Service Year – equivalent to the number of service hours that a full-time AmeriCorps member would serve over a one-year period, approximately 1,700 hours. One full-time member is equal to 1.0 MSY, one half-time member is equal to 0.5 MSY, etc.
National and Community Service Act of 1990	Originally passed by Congress and signed into law in 1990 to establish the Commission on National and Community Service, the Act of 1990 was amended significantly by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to establish the Corporation for National and Community Service.
National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993	Act that amended the National and Community Service Act of 1990, establishing the Corporation for National and Community Service by combining the Commission for National and Community Service and ACTION.
National Service Trust Fund	A trust fund in the United States Treasury Department established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to hold and to disperse AmeriCorps Education Awards.
NOFA	Notice of Funds Availability, a legal notification, published in the Federal Register, announcing the availability of funds for a new grant program.
Nondisplacement	AmeriCorps members cannot perform any service that would result in a paid employee losing a job or failure to hire a paid employee (see CFR § 2540.100).
Nonduplication	AmeriCorps members cannot duplicate services already offered in the locality of the program (see CFR § 2540.100).

OFBCI	The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives provides staffing to the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV) and provides technical assistance and oversight to Indiana's AmeriCorps*State programs. OFBCI also acts as a liaison between faith-based and community organizations and government, providing training and technical assistance to organizations wishing to receive government funding.
OMB	The Federal government's Office of Management and Budget assist the President in preparing the annual federal budget and oversees its execution. OMB must approve the Corporation's regulations, applications, forms, and other documents that will affect the public. The OMB also publishes circulars to establish government-wide grants management policies and guidelines.
PDAT	Program Development Assistance and Training funds awarded to State Commissions to provide training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps*State and National programs operating in a particular state or territory.
RFP	Request for Proposal issued by the Corporation, or another agency, to solicit program applications for available grant funds.
RSVP	Established in 1971 and now one of the largest senior volunteer programs in the nation, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program engages nearly 450,000 people ages 55+ in a diverse range of volunteer activities. RSVP is one of the Senior Corps programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.
SCP	Established in 1974, the Senior Companion Program helps homebound seniors and other frail adults maintain independence in their own homes. Approximately 15,000 Senior Companions serve more than 56,000 individuals each year. SCP is one of the Senior Corps programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.
Service-Learning	An educational method whereby participants learn and develop through active participation in service that is conducted in and meets the needs of a community; is coordinated with a school or community service program and with the community; is integrated into and enhances the lifelong learning of a participant; and includes structured time for the participants to reflect on the service experience.
Service Site	Not a "work" site, not a "job" site, but a service site – a place where service is being performed by members and perhaps other people who are volunteers and/or employees.
State Commission	A 15-25 member, independent, bipartisan commission appointed by a governor to implement service programs in each state. Each state commission receives funding from CNCS and is overseen by an executive director. The state commission's duties include developing a state service plan, submitting the state applications to CNCS, making AmeriCorps*State funding decisions, and overseeing funded programs.
State Competitive Funds	AmeriCorps*State funds awarded on a national competitive basis, rather than a statewide competitive basis.

State Formula Funds	AmeriCorps*State funds awarded to state commissions according to a population-based formula. These funds are administered by the state commission.
State Service Plan	A policy document which describes the mission and goals of a state as well as how national and community service will be promoted, coordinated and supported in the state.
Supplantation Rule	Corporation assistance may not be used to replace state and local public funds that had previously been used to support a particular program (see CFR § 2540.100).
TA	Technical assistance, provided by CNCS, by staff of the state commission, by a national provider, or by anyone else.